

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A mat for mounting a pollution control element in a pollution control device, said mat comprising at least ~~two layers consisting of~~ an alumina fiber layer and a ceramic fiber layer, wherein the weight ratio of said alumina fiber layer to said ceramic fiber layer is 3:11-11:3 and said mat maintains holding strength even when exposed to high temperatures in excess of 800°C for long periods of time.
2. (Currently amended) The mat ~~pollution control device~~ according to claim 1, wherein said alumina fiber layer and said ceramic fiber layer form a single sheet without the use of an auxiliary bonding means.
3. (Currently amended) The mat according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the ceramic fibers that compose the ceramic fiber layer are annealed at a temperature of 700-1200°C.
4. (Currently amended) The mat according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the alumina fiber layer contains crystalline alumina fibers formed from a mixture containing alumina and silica, and the alumina content of that fiber is 50 wt% or more.
5. (Currently amended) The mat according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the ceramic fiber layer contains ceramic fibers formed from a mixture containing alumina and silica, and the silica content of that fiber is 45 wt% or more.
6. (Currently amended) The mat according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the alumina fiber layer and ceramic fiber layer are formed into a single sheet by preparing a slurry containing alumina fibers and a slurry containing ceramic fibers, adhering either of the slurries to a permeable substrate and partially dehydrating the adhered slurry to form a first layer, and then

adhering the other slurry to the first layer and partially dehydrating that slurry to form a second layer.

7. (Currently amended) The mat according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 7~~, wherein said mat is for mounting a catalyst support in a catalytic converter.

8. (Currently amended) The mat according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 7~~, wherein neither said layer includes an expanding material.

9. (Currently amended) The mat according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 7~~, wherein said mat maintains its holding strength even when exposed to high temperatures in excess of 800°C for 10 years as determined by extrapolation.

10. (Previously presented) A pollution control device comprising:
a housing;
a pollution control element mounted in said housing; and
a mat disposed between said housing and said pollution control element so as to mount said pollution control element in said housing, said mat comprising at least two layers, an alumina fiber layer and a ceramic fiber layer,

wherein the weight ratio of said alumina fiber layer to said ceramic fiber layer is 3:11-11:3 and said mat maintains holding strength even when exposed to high temperatures in excess of 800°C for long periods of time.

11. (Previously presented) The pollution control device according to claim 10, wherein said alumina fiber layer and said ceramic fiber layer form a single sheet without the use of an auxiliary bonding means.

12. (Currently amended) The pollution control device according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein the ceramic fibers that compose the ceramic fiber layer are annealed at a temperature of 700-1200°C.

13. (Currently amended) The pollution control device according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein the alumina fiber layer contains crystalline alumina fibers formed from a mixture containing alumina and silica, and the alumina content of that fiber is 50 wt% or more.

14. (Currently amended) The pollution control device according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein the ceramic fiber layer contains ceramic fibers formed from a mixture containing alumina and silica, and the silica content of that fiber is 45 wt% or more.

15. (Currently amended) The pollution control device according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein the alumina fiber layer and ceramic fiber layer are formed into a single sheet by preparing a slurry containing alumina fibers and a slurry containing ceramic fibers, adhering either of the slurries to a permeable substrate and partially dehydrating the adhered slurry to form a first layer, and then adhering the other slurry to the first layer and partially dehydrating that slurry to form a second layer.

16. (Currently amended) The pollution control device ~~mat~~ according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 10 ~~to 15~~, wherein neither said layer includes an expanding material.

17. (Currently amended) The pollution control device ~~mat~~ according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 10 ~~to 15~~, wherein said mat maintains its holding strength even when exposed to high temperatures in excess of 800°C for 10 years as determined by extrapolation.

18. (New) The pollution control device according to claim 10, wherein said pollution control device is a catalytic converter.

19. (New) The pollution control device according to claim 10 in combination with an engine exhaust.

20. (New) The pollution control device according to claim 10 in combination with an engine.